

Assemblyman  
**PAUL KORETZ**

**Forty-second Assembly District**

*proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks*



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## **KORETZ URGES LA COUNTY TO LICENSE GAY MARRIAGES**

**(West Hollywood)** Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) today urged the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to follow the lead of the City and County of San Francisco to stop discriminating against lesbian and gay couples in the issuance of marriage licenses.

“Marriage is a basic human right. Denying same gender couples this right is a violation of the nondiscrimination clause of the California Constitution. Existing state statutes defining marriage as only between a man and a woman are unjust, discriminatory, unconstitutional, and should not be honored by any jurisdiction,” said Assemblyman Koretz.

Yesterday, with the support of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, County Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng began issuing marriage licenses to same-gender couples making the City and County of San Francisco the first jurisdiction in the United States to do so. The California Family Code specifies that county clerks have the authority to issue marriage licenses.

“Today I urge the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to end the unconstitutional discrimination against gay and lesbian couples by authorizing the issuance of marriage licenses to same-gender couples. I also would ask that the County honor the marriages already conducted in San Francisco. There comes a time in history when we have to take a stand against injustice. For the LA County Board of Supervisors, now is that time,” said Koretz.

Opponents of marriage equality are expected to file suit today in the California Superior Court in San Francisco and to ask for an injunction to stop San Francisco from continuing to issue marriage licenses to same gender couples. Should Los Angeles County decide to follow San Francisco’s lead, it is likely that legal assistance would be available from several gay and lesbian organizations.

“We cannot ignore the human cost of this discrimination. The protection of family law is needed most when tragedy strikes, in death, divorce, and other family disputes such as child support. The new domestic partnership expansion approved by the Legislature last year cannot prevent estranged relatives or bad acting domestic partners from simply running across state lines with children, property, or other assets. That’s why full marriage rights are so important,” commented Koretz.

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